

Ambrosio Guillen

Texas State Veterans Home

The Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home sits on 42.8 acres in Northeast El Paso, near Transmountain Road and Gateway North. It will serve approximately 50,000 Texas veterans in El Paso and neighboring counties. The land for the home was transferred from Fort Bliss to El Paso County, which donated the land for the home.

The home is named in honor of U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Ambrosio Guillen, who posthumously received the Medal of Honor on August 18, 1954, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity during the Korean War.

A Texas State Veterans Home can cost significantly less than private nursing care facilities because the VA subsidizes a portion of a veteran's cost to live in one of the homes. The El Paso home will have 160 beds, 60 of which will be certified for Alzheimer's care in a separate, secured unit. Residents will have access to 24-hour professional care, a comprehensive rehabilitation program, special diets, recreational activities, social services and a library. Community and veteran volunteers will also play a role in supporting the home.

The members of the Texas Veterans Land Board who chose the El Paso site are: Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Veterans Land Board and Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office; Col. Ladd Pattillo, USAR (Ret.); and the late Mr. Mike Ussery. Lt. Col. Cephus "Dusty" S. Rhodes, from El Paso, joined the Veterans Land Board in 2005.

Patterson authored Senate Bill 1060, the legislation that established the Texas State Veterans Homes program while serving as a state senator in 1997.



Texas Veterans Land Board
Jerry Patterson, Chairman
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Ambrosio Guillen

TEXAS STATE VETERANS HOME



DEDICATION CEREMONY
TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD
JULY 19, 2005 ♦ 2:00 P.M.



TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD
JERRY PATTERSON, CHAIRMAN

Ambrosio Guillen

El Paso's Texas State Veterans Home is named in honor of U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Ambrosio Guillen, a Medal of Honor recipient who died in Korea.

Sgt. Guillen grew up in El Paso, where he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 18. After completing boot camp in San Diego, he was assigned to the 6th Marine Regiment. He went on to serve aboard the USS Curtis, and afterward, became a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Sgt. Guillen trained two honor platoons there and was lauded for his training and leadership skills. He would soon put those abilities to test in the Korean War.

On July 25, 1953, Sgt. Guillen was serving as a platoon sergeant in Company F, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced). While helping in the defense of an outpost near Songuch-on, Korea, Sgt. Guillen led his platoon over unfamiliar terrain while under hostile fire and placed his men in fighting positions. During the night, two Chinese communist battalions attacked with heavy supporting mortar and artillery fire. Sgt. Guillen exposed himself to enemy fire so he could better direct his platoon's defense. Although busy directing his pinned-down platoon, Sgt. Guillen took time to ensure the wounded were treated and evacuated. His men were inspired by his selflessness to engage the enemy in ferocious hand-to-hand combat. Sgt. Guillen was critically wounded during the battle, yet refused medical aid until the enemy was defeated and forced into disorderly retreat. A few hours later, the 24-year-old Marine died of his wounds—two days before the cease-fire. He was buried at Fort Bliss National Cemetery on October 20, 1953.

On August 18, 1954, Secretary of the Navy Charles Thomas presented the Medal of Honor posthumously to Sgt. Guillen for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pedro H. Guillen, accepted the Medal of Honor on his behalf.

Special Thanks

Sahara\NCED, Bob Jones, President & CEO
Ms. Amy Lechuga, El Paso County
Fort Bliss
Department of Veterans Affairs
Tigua Tribe Indian Youth Dancers
Las Amigas

Dedication Ceremony

- PATRIOTIC PRELUDE:** 62nd Army Band, Ft. Bliss
- PRESENTING OF THE COLORS:** Fort Bliss Color Guard
- NATIONAL ANTHEM:** 62nd Army Band, Ft. Bliss
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Maylo Chavez
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 844
- PRAYER FOR THE TROOPS:** 1st Lt. David Ward
Chaplain, 647th Area Support Group
- WELCOME:** The Honorable Dolores Briones
El Paso County Judge
- OPENING REMARKS:** The Honorable Jerry Patterson
*Chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board &
Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office*

COMMENTS:

- The Honorable Silvestre Reyes
U.S. Congressman
- The Honorable Eliot Shapleigh
State Senator
- The Honorable Norma Chavez
State Representative
- The Honorable Pat Haggerty
State Representative
- The Honorable Paul Cruz Moreno
State Representative
- The Honorable Inocente "Chente"
Quintanilla
State Representative
- The Honorable John Cook
El Paso Mayor
- Col. Roger Mathews
Chief of Staff, Fort Bliss
- Colonel Jay Vargas, USMC (Ret.)
*Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam,
Department of Veterans Affairs*
- Leo Barraza
Chairman, Texas Veterans Commission
- Colonel Joseph C. Rodriguez, USA (Ret.)
Medal of Honor Recipient, Korea
- Manny Rivas
Former VFW State Commander
- Ramon Guillen
Nephew of S/Sgt. Guillen
- Sgt. Neil Hoing, Ret.
Served with S/Sgt. Guillen
- Jack Dewell
S/Sgt. Guillen's Drill Instructor
- George Munnerlyn
S/Sgt. Guillen's Drill Instructor

- RIBBON CUTTING:** The Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home
- RECEPTION:** Light hors d'oeuvres will be served in the Great Hall
- EAGLE DANCE:** The Tigua Tribe Indian Youth Dancers will perform the Eagle Dance to honor warriors in the Great Hall
- TOUR:** The Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home will be open to the public from 2-4 p.m.